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Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization
20–28 February 2018

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Luke **Tang** (Singapore)

II. Maintenance of international peace and security

F. Consideration of the revised working paper submitted by Ghana on strengthening the relationship and cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements or agencies in the peaceful settlement of disputes

1. The revised working paper on strengthening the relationship and cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements or agencies in the peaceful settlement of disputes (A/AC.182/L.148), submitted by Ghana at the current session of the Special Committee in follow-up to its 2015 concept paper (A/70/33, annex II) and 2016 working paper (A/71/33, annex) on the same subject, was referred to during the general exchange of views held at the 287th and 288th meetings of the Special Committee, on 20 February 2018, and was considered at the 1st and 2nd meetings of the Working Group of the Whole, on 21 and 22 February.

2. During the general exchange of views, several delegations expressed their support for the revised working paper, noting that the subject was topical and relevant to the work of the Special Committee and that it could serve the practical purpose of helping to fill gaps in the work of the Organization. The Special Committee was encouraged to develop guidelines to facilitate the cooperation of the United Nations with regional organizations. It was also noted that the work on the subject should not duplicate or prejudice discussions in other forums of the United Nations.

3. At the 1st and 2nd meetings of the Working Group of the Whole, the sponsor delegation explained that the revised working paper took into account existing instruments and legal frameworks and identified gaps in and challenges to the working relationship between the United Nations and regional arrangements or agencies with regard to the coordination of their activities. It noted that the revised working paper was not exhaustive and welcomed suggestions from delegations, which

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could be followed by informal consultations with a view to developing guidelines for discussion at the next session of the Special Committee.

4. Several delegations reiterated their support for the revised working paper. It was emphasized that regional organizations played a critical role in maintaining international peace and security, but that they had to operate within the framework of the Charter. The view was expressed that the paper could aid in identifying possible guidelines, which could be formulated during an intersessional dialogue.

5. Some delegations asked the sponsor delegation to clarify the expected outcome of the document and the relevant legal framework. Delegations noted that Chapter VIII of the Charter, as well as the Declaration on the Enhancement of Cooperation between the United Nations and Regional Arrangements or Agencies in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security (General Assembly resolution 49/57, annex), already provided a framework for cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements or agencies. It was also reiterated that the revised proposal should not be duplicative of efforts conducted elsewhere in the United Nations. In that regard, a suggestion was made to narrow the ideas and proposals contained in the revised working paper.